Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAB-01 IO-10 CU-02 SCCT-01

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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4762
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

CONFIDENTIAL TEL AVIV 6916

E.O. 11652: NGDS TAGS: PINT, IS

SUBJ: RABIN HECKLED BY ARAB YOUTH IN NAZARETH

REF: FBIS TEL AVIV TA271605 DTG 271605Z NOV (NOTAL)

1. REF REPORTS RADIO ISRAEL ACCOUNT OF VISIT TO COMMUNITY CENTER IN NAZARETH NOV 27 BY PM RABIN, DURING WHICH RABIN WAS HECKLED BY ARAB YOUNG PEOPLE IN AUDIENCE AND CONFRONTED BY THEM WITH PROVOCATIVE QUESTIONS. DURING SESSION IN WHICH HE WAS OCCASIONALLY FORCED TO STOP SPEAKING DUE TO LOUD HECKLING, RABIN FIELDED QUESTIONS CONCERNING SUCH TOPICS AS ISRAELI REFUSAL TO ATTEND GENEVA CONFERENCE, TO WITHDRAW FROM OCCUPIED TERRITORIES, OR TO RECOGNIZE PLO.

2. IN PORTION CARRIED BY RADIO, RABIN AT ONE POINT SAID: QUOTE I AM SURE THAT STUDENTS IN EGYPT AND SYRIA WOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO POSE SUCH QUESTIONS AND SPEAK AS FREELY AS WE ARE ALLOWING HERE. I DO NOT KNOW IF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY IN DAMASCUS.. CONFIDENTIAL

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IS ALLOWED TO SPEAK WITH ASAD AS YOU ARE SPEAKING TO ME. THIS IS

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE ARAB STATES AND US..THIS IS OUR STRENGTH. END QUOTE.

3. INTERVIEWED IN NOV 28 YEDIOT, ADVISOR TO PM ON ARAB AFFAIRS SHMUEL TOLEDANO SAID THAT INCIDENT IN NAZARETH SERVED TO HIGHLIGHT SERIOUS PROBLEM WHICH HE HAD BEEN TRYING TO POINT OUT, THE SITUATION OF A NEW ARAB GENERATION GROWING UP IN ISRAEL BUT SUBJECTED TO NEGATIVE INFLUENCES FROM BEYOND THE BORDERS. TOLEDANO DISAGREED WITH OPINIONS REPORTEDLY EXPRESSED IN SOME OFFICIAL CIRCLES THAT IT WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER HAD THE PRIME MINISTER NOT ATTEMPTED SUCH MEETING, STATING RATHER "WE HAVE TO RECOGNIZE THE EXISTENCE OF THIS PROBLEM IN ORDER TO MEASURE ITS STRENGTH AND TO LOCATE IT. ANY ATTEMPT TO IGNORE IT IS BASICALLY WRONG." TOLEDANO SAID SUCH REACTION ON PART OF SOME YOUNG ISRAELI ARABS WAS NATURAL IN VIEW OF RECENT EVENTS IN ARAB WORLD, BUT SAID HE PERSONALLY PREFERS TO FOCUS ON POSITIVE FACT THAT "3500" YOUNG ARABS WERE WAVING ISRAELI FLAGS AND CHEERING ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER.

4. COMMENT: WE FIND TIMING OF RABIN VISIT TO NAZARETH AND HIS CHOICE OF YOUTHFUL AUDIENCE RATHER CURIOUS, IN VIEW OF RECENT ERUPTIONS OF YOUNG PEOPLE ON WEST BANK. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT PURPOSE WAS TO UNDERLINE NEED FOR GREATER ATTENTION TO ARAB AFFAIRS WITHIN BOTH GOVERNMENT AND LABOR PARTY, AND THUS TO LEND URGENCY TO CREATION OF SPECIAL MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE TO DEAL WITH SUBJECT. TOLEDANO HAS BEEN SAID TO BE PUSHING FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF SUCH COMMITTEE UNDER THREAT OF RESIGNATION, AND RABIN WAS RECENTLY REPORTED TO BE GIVING SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO ITS ESTABLISHMENT. AVERAGE ISRAELI UNDOUBTEDLY PLACES CONCERNS OF ARAB CITIZENS WELL DOWN LIST OF PRIORITIES CURRENTLY FACING COUNTRY. NEVERTHELESS, ENHANCED SENSE OF IDENTITY WITH ARAB CAUSE AMONG ITS OWN APPROXIMATELY

HALF-MILLION ARAB CITIZENS HAS POTENTIALLY MORE SERIOUS LONG-TERM IMPLICATIONS FOR ISRAEL THAN EVEN RECENT DISTURBANCES ON WEST BANK. WE BELIEVE GOVERNMENT IS THEREFORE WELL-ADVISED TO PLACE RENEWED EMPHASIS ON DOMESTIC ARAB AFFAIRS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: PALESTINIANS, SPEECHES, MILITARY OCCUPIED AREAS

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 30 NOV 1974 Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974TEL AV/06916

Document Number: 1974TELAV06916 Document Source: CORE Document Unique ID: 00

Drafter: n/a Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: GS Errors: N/A Film Number: D740348-0101

From: TEL AVIV

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path:

Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974111/aaaaaacy.tel Line Count: 99

Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM Office: ACTION NEA Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL Original Handling Restrictions: n/a Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2

Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL

Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: FBIS TEL AVIV TA271605 DTG 271605Z N, OV (NOTAL)

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja

Review Comment: n/a Review Content Flags: Review Date: 19 JUN 2002

Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 JUN 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <18 MAR 2003 by boyleja>

Review Markings:

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier: Review Referrals: n/a Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: RABIN HECKLED BY ARAB YOUTH IN NAZARETH

TAGS: PINT, IS, (RABIN)

To: STATE

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005